(e) the details of progress of other projects as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Under the Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project (OWRCP) being implemented with the World Bank assistance, 8 Irrigation Project have been taken up for completion and 26 projects have been taken up for system improvement and farmers turn over. Lower Indira Irrigation Project is not included under the assistance. The total World Bank assistance for these projects is US $290.90 Million. During the financial years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, an amount of US $ 28.670 Million and US $ 14.732 Million (utpo December 2000) respectively have been reimbursed to the Government of Orissa. There has been a gap in scheduled disbursement and actual reimbursement in the OWRCP mainly due to super cyclone in Orissa during 1999, procedural delays in award of works, delay in forest land clearance and delay in land acquisition.

(e) There is no other World Bank aided irrigation Project other than OWRCP in the State.

Development of proposed projects on Godavari

2697. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to assist in the development of proposed projects on the river Godavari for overall development of the area;

(b) if so, the assistance proposed; and

(c) if not, assistance proposed in extending loans from World Bank etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The State Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, which are the co-basin States of the Godavari basin have to plan, investigate, fund and implement irrigation projects in the basin within their water shares as agreed to in inter-state agreements, after getting necessary clearances from central agencies, where required, for development of Godavari waters. The Central Government is assisting the states of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Chattisgarh and Maharashtra in resolving the submergence issues linked to Inchampalli and Polavaram projects on the Godavari by setting up a High

Level Committee under Member (WP&P), Central Water Commission. The committee has held two meetings so far. Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme is available for approved, ongoing projects for their early completion.

Indo-Bangaladesh talks on sharing of common Rivers

2698. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have entered into an agreement on sharing of water of common rivers;

(b) if so, the assistance Government would provide to Bangladesh in preparing detailed project reports on constructing Padma Barrage and also for fighting the Arsenic poisoning problem sweeping many parts of Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) India had entered into an agreement with Bangladesh for sharing of Ganga water at Farakka in December, 1996.

In the Joint Rivers Commission meeting held at Dhaka in January, 2001. Government of India have agreed in principle to the Bangladesh request for financial and technical assistance to carry out the feasibility and detailed engineering works of the Ganges Barrage Project in Bangladesh. It was also agreed during the meeting that both countries could be mutually benefited through exchange of tested technologies, ideas, experiences and research findings in combating the arsenic problem.

Grant-In-Aid to Rajasthan

†2699. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER, RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant provided to Rajasthan by the Ministry of Water Resources in the financial years of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 alongwith the details of the heads programmes or projects and specific field for which the said grant has been provided; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.